

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Heber Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade; Imperial County, California

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund grants for the Heber wastewater treatment plant expansion and upgrade in Imperial County, California. Heber is located approximately 5 miles north of the U.S./Mexico border between El Centro and Calexico.

The project consists in the expansion and upgrade of Heber's existing wastewater treatment plant. The expansion of the treatment plant considers the addition of a new oxidation ditch, two clarifiers, a return activated sludge and waste activated sludge pump station, sludge drying beds, and disinfection facilities.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The City of Heber has been served with a Declaration of Pollution Problem and Time Schedule for Compliance by the Imperial County Public Health Department as well as a notice by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region that the plant's average daily flow consistently exceeded the design capacity. Expansion and upgrade of Heber's wastewater treatment plant will comply with the mandate issued by State and County agencies.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

An environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed project was conducted by the U.S. EPA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socioeconomic factors, the EA identified no significant adverse impacts to the environment resulting from implementation of the project.

### **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

After preparation of the EA, EPA has determined that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that an environmental impact statement will, therefore, not be prepared for the project.

The EA is on file with the other project materials and is available for public inspection at EPA Region 9 in San Francisco, California, at 75 Hawthorne Street. To make an appointment to review the project EA, to obtain a copy of the EA, or to obtain additional information about the

project, please contact Carlos Quintero of EPA Region 9 at (415) 744-1169 or via e-mail at [quintero.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:quintero.carlos@epa.gov). Copies of the EA are also available for public inspection in Heber at the Heber Public Utility District, 1085 Ingram Avenue (contact: Steve Hogan); and at the Heber U.S. Post Office, 71 Main Street (Contact: Diane García).

Comments on this finding of no significant impact may be submitted for consideration by EPA within 30 calendar days from date of this notice. No administrative action will be taken by EPA on the above-described projects prior to the expiration of this commenting period. Comments should be: (1) mailed to Carlos Quintero, U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California 94105 (mail stop WTR-4); (2) faxed to (415) 744-1078, attention of Carlos Quintero; or (3) e-mailed to [quintero.carlos@epa.gov](mailto:quintero.carlos@epa.gov).

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Felicia Marcus  
Regional Administrator

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Date